GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:582
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2001
RAIDS ON CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the premises of some customs officials, including the Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs,were raidedin March- April, 2001 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for which raids were conducted ;

(d) the details of seizures made from the premises of these officials ;

(e) the details of arrests made in this connection ;

(f) whether any departmental action has been taken against these officials ; and
g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) & (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.582 ANSWER ON 27.4.2001 REGARDING RAIDS ON CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) 1. Raid on premises of former Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs. CBI has registered a case against Sh.B.P.Verma, former Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs on the ground that he had shown favour to a private party. Following the registration of the case, CBI conducted searches, inter-alia, of his residence as well as that of another officer on 31.3.2001. During the course of searches, incriminating documents were seized, indicating that he was in possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. He was arrested on 1.4.2001 by CBI. He has also been placed under suspension.

2. Raids on premises of officers in connection with smuggling by Uzbek Nationals through IGI Airport, New Delhi. On 28.8.2000, a Uzbek woman was intercepted at IGI Airport, Delhi while attempting to clear Chinese Silk without declaring them to the Customs Authorities. Later she was arrested and detained under COFEPOSA Act. The matter was subsequently investigated by Director General Revenue Intelligence and Director General (Vigilance), CBEC. On the basis of the preliminary investigation conducted, 33 officers were suspended and the case was handed over to CBI. Subsequently, CBI registered a case in the matter and on 31.3.2001, conducted searches including the office and residential premises of 48 Customs Officials. During raids, some cash, investments and properties documents were recovered. None of the officers have been arrested.

3. Raid on two Appraising Officers of Nhava Sheva Customs House.CBI registered a case on the allegation of conspiracy with private parties to defraud Government by allowing some irregular import. Subsequently searches were made on the premises of the two Appraising Officers. No arrests have been made.

4. Raid on two Supdts. of Nanawati Warehouse of Mumbai Custom House.CBI raided the premises of two Supdts. of Customs working at Nanawati Warehouse of Mumbai Custom House for accepting illegal gratification. During search, cash and incriminating documents were seized. One Supdt. has been arrested by CBI. He has been placed under suspension.

5. Raid on one Customs Appraiser of Mumbai Customs. Pursuant to recoveryof large amount of cash in the possession of an Appraising Officer of Mumbai Customs during a surprise check by CBI, search of his residentiapremises was conducted by them. During the search cash was recovered. The officer has been arrested by CBI on 21.04.2001.